



Commonwealth of Kentucky Energy and Environment Cabinet

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Celebrate National Air Quality Awareness Week *Individual actions add up to cleaner air*

FRANKFORT, Ky. (May 1, 2012) – This week is National Air Quality Awareness week and the Kentucky Division for Air Quality (DAQ) encourages citizens to “Be Air Aware” and to make choices that benefit air quality.

For many people, “air pollution” conjures up images of large cities and smokestacks. “Air quality isn’t just an industrial issue,” said DAQ director John Lyons.

“Each of us has an important role to play in keeping our air clean. Every time you use energy -- whether burning wood, gasoline, diesel, or electricity -- you are contributing to air pollution in your community and those downwind of you.”

Saving energy helps your pocketbook as well as your lungs. Here are a few tips to help you get started:

- Purchase ENERGY STAR rated products, from light bulbs and appliances to home entertainment systems.
- Conserve electricity and set your air conditioner at a higher temperature.
- Keep your vehicle maintained and your tires properly inflated.
- Reduce unnecessary idling by turning your engine off when parked for more than 10 seconds.

- Mow your lawn and refuel your vehicle during cooler morning and evening hours.
- Combine errands and reduce car trips whenever possible.
- Avoid burning trash, which is illegal and highly polluting.

If every Kentuckian took one or more of these actions, the impact would be tremendous – because it all adds up to cleaner air. More information on air quality is available at the division Web site, air.ky.gov.

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